

**America's Great Outdoors
Comments from Comment Cards**

Location: Occidental College

Date: July 8, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are comments from the comment cards collected at the Listening Session. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Comment Card Questions:

1. What are the most critical conservation challenges facing our nation today?
2. What are the best strategies to address these challenges?

Organization	Source of Comments	Comments
Educator	General Comments	Conservation back bone. Put more lands into conservation to create parks. Availability to students, need idea of making conserved lands and resources available by subsidizing transportation. Need for money and access to outdoors.
Access	General Comments	Get to something local not just places where you need buses. Create local parks that are close.
Access	General Comments	Linear parks that connect small parks are needed. Challenge is need incentives for cities to embrace.

Access	General Comments	Countywide master plan for more green space for recreation to help with ADT with kids. Need is to create a thin ribbon for parks and how do you get people in there and maintain.
Access	General Comments	Safe routes to parks not just schools.
Access	General Comments	Education needed for what we currently have. Challenge is to get people to the mountains. What access could be provided? How do we get urban core to mountains via "access." Shouldn't have to drive to get to mountains. Need Better access via bikes and mass transit.
Access	General Comments	Create free youth bus to mountains and parks.
Access	General Comments	National scenic trails but missing urban trails. Urban trails exist the issue is how do you spread word about (challenges by county) Trail developed but need to create map.
LACC	General Comments	Lack of support from parents. Public schools should enforce greater volunteerism with their kids to the outdoors. Challenge public schools do not provide field trips to parks but they attend indoor activities.
LACC	General Comments	Challenges to National Park (Glacier) its disappearing animals and plants. Need help with Climate Change. Work on solar and wind not nuclear, could not have oil spill with nuclear.
No Organization Available	General Comments	People have opportunity to connect with ecology. Use art to help create balance /envision and connectivity.

City of LA	General Comments	Need buses that are close to (free for those under 18) where people do not walk a few blocks to catch. Use students to help maintain plants.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Active management and funding in place at local level not federal government. Work's well at El Mirage off road.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Problems viewed from multi-use not silo. ACOE only view flood control not recreation. Need watersheds Councils as they work at viewing multiple facets.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Whittier Narrows would keep kids out of gangs and the education there works.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Develop cultural systems at Whittier narrows based on the Tribal Nation who owned land before. First mission was build by the Tribal nation and they would like to be recognized by having a place for them to meet and be buried. (Need federal government support).
No Organization Available	General Comments	Community school parks are needed at local schools. LA has worst percentage of neighborhood parks based on population. Parks Save kids lives.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Need more connection between mental health and parks this does not exist in LA.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Lengthen school days to incorporate outdoor activities for kids.

No Organization Available	General Comments	Park retrofit Example at Rio Hondo is a good example in LA of what works with working with past heritage and incorporating into park design. Extends into the river.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Colleges provided greater example of kids to outdoors and we need to start this at a younger age.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Challenges/what works. Provide money for internships for college students to do more stream restoration and outdoor work.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Long Beach, working with the feds to bring back waves to the beach. Working with ACOE will take ten years. Need feds to get more streamlined and get projects done quickly.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Feds have money and we need them to help with preserving land (such as in Idaho, Alaska, etc).
No Organization Available	General Comments	Feds good at counting and collecting data on air and water quality. Difficult to access this info. Feds need to share info more, be more open and transparent. How can the federal government work with the private sector to make this info available.
No Organization Available	General Comments	"One size fits all" Regulations do not work. Trail management on trails not working. Litigation doesn't work.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Feds need to do better at coordinating. Bureau of Health Statistics = National Parks.

No Organization Available	General Comments	LA Basin has poor public transportation- Federal government has a role to play in helping solve the transportation issue. In LA National Heritage River under Clinton should be restored.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Land and Water Conservation Program should be restored.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Healthy restoration of LA river- tools by Federal government should be created to make this happen within 20 years, not 40 years.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Use Clean Air Act as a tool. Air is not cleaner just because visibility is better. Deal with shipping industrials (bunker fuel, rail roads using diesel fuels) Government can address these not locals.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Federal government has the tools, use them! Political will to do it is needed.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Land Water Conservation Funds need to be increased and allow for urban lands to be purchased. Need Federal Wilderness Act to stay intact.
No Organization Available	General Comments	How can EPA process be sped up Water for wildlife project should be reviewed and done quickly.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Need Department of Education and they should be included. Get kids interacting with wilderness not just parks, kids need fresh air and exercise.
No Organization Available	General Comments	Need for feds to engage with community and explain resources, what's available and what has worked well.